

Warren Twp. PTA
Warren Central High School
9301 E. 18th Street
Indpls., In. 46229
March 19, 1997.

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W. Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY OPTIONAL

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS DOCKET NO. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Warren Township PTA to voice my opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, U.S. News and World Report, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

The FCC, by law, is required to determine whether the industry's rating system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. I do not believe this system does so and ask the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead, we request the following:

-- That under no circumstances should the FCC approve the industry's rating system. Further, the FCC should accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs such as V (for violence), S (for sexual depiction and nudity) and L (for language);

--That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating system;

--That the rating icon on the TV screen be made larger, more prominently placed on the screen, and appear more frequently during the course of a program;

--That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and

--That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

Harry Sauls

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9301 E. 18th Street
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March 19, 1997.

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
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DOCKET NO. 97-55

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Sincerely,

Eugenia Hoffman

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Sincerely,

Joann Hawks

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Warren Central High School
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March 19, 1997.

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Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Mrs. Mary Jane Smith

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c/o Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FCC 97-55

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Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

Lynne Baker

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1 South Bogey Drive
Jesup, Georgia 31546
March 24, 1997

Mr. Reed Hundt
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, NW Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Ref.: CS Docket No. 97-55 FCC 97-34

Dear Mr. Hundt,

I am writing to voice my support for onscreen content ratings for Television Programs and for descriptive content information in periodicals that carry TV schedules.

I agree that parents must exercise more control over what their children are allowed to watch. However, without the help from somewhere on which to base their watch no watch decisions they will be floundering in the dark.

Simply put, someone should clean up TV. There are too many shows that filled with sex, adultery, violence and unnecessary (heretofore vulgar) language and scenes i.e. a man shown going into a restroom and standing at a urinal pretending to urinate. Showing the man entering a door marked MEN would be sufficient to make the point.

I have one other beef. Can you do anything to control the volume of commercials? The volume maximum for commercials should be set at the same volume as the program being sponsored.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Pierce
Robert W. Pierce

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March 25, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am (we are) writing on behalf of the National PTA and the _____ (local, council, district, or state PTA) to voice my (our) opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, *U. S. News and World Report*, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

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- That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

Virginia A. Avroh
Astoria, NC

28056

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March 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W. , Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Davidson School PTA in Kansas City, Missouri, to voice my opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that give parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, *U.S. News and World Report*, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

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Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

Audrey Ann March
Harold L. March

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March 18, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY CD 221AL

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the local PTA chapter at Dr. W.J. Creel Elementary School in Melbourne, Florida, to voice my opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, *U.S. News and World Report*, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

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- That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of the parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,

Peggy Pifer
Peggy Pifer
Melbourne, Florida

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Lib. no.

P.S. I'm a public school teacher and a concerned parent. My life is for with and about children.

March 23, 1997

DOCKETED AT WASH DC

Mr. Reed Hundt and the FCC Commission
Office of the Secretary
1919 M. Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am a mother of 4 daughters, ages 4, 6, 9, and 12. I am greatly opposed to the present industry rating system for television programming. There is no way that someone in Washington or Hollywood could determine what I feel is appropriate for my children to watch. You might say that I should sit and watch everything with them to decide that, but by the time I see something that is offensive, they've seen it also, and the imprint is already made in their minds.

I feel that a rating system which includes program content descriptors would be more beneficial. That is the only way that parents can determine if a show is appropriate or not. There are many cartoons that have very violent content that my children are not allowed to watch.

If content descriptors have been used on many movies, especially on cable pay movie stations, why shouldn't they also be used for our families?

Sincerely,

Mrs. Maggie Duncan

Mrs. Maggie Duncan
2206 Carmelita Blvd.
Kokomo, IN 46902
765-453-1922

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JUDITH M. ARNOLD
488 BROOKDALE ROAD
UNION, NEW JERSEY 07083

March 23, 1997

Mr. Reed Hundt, Chairman and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

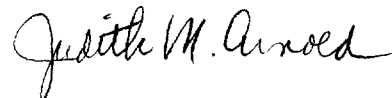
As a 26 year member of the PTA, I am writing to voice my opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti. The system as presented does not give enough information and therefore, as parents and grandparents, we are unable to determine what is appropriate for our children to watch.

Since the FCC is required to determine whether the television industry's rating system has met the statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, I am urging you **NOT** to approve this system.

The rating should be much more explicit so that we are better able to judge what is best for our children. There should be an independent review board which includes parents, since they are the primary caregivers of the children this system is designed to protect.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my concerns.

Very truly yours,



Judith M. Arnold
Region III Director, NJPTA

To: Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

From: Farmington Elementary PTA
50 W. 200 S.
Farmington, UT 84025

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Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

We, the Farmington Elementary PTA, oppose Industry Proposed Age-Based Rating Systems specifically the System presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. This system:

- ▶ Does not provide parents with enough information about the content of individual programs.
- ▶ It allows the TV industry (Not the Parents) to judge what material is acceptable for all children of a particular age range. (Some programs are inappropriate for any age we need more information to make a clear judgement for our selves).
- ▶ Intermingles violence, sex and nudity, and language issues in a single judgement and does not indicate why a show was rated a particular way.
- ▶ With holds information that is needed to make a true judgement on, 'appropriate for me', viewing.

We would suggest and support A Descriptive Content-Based Rating System. One that:

- ▶ Would include symbols about the content of individual programs (V- violence, S-sex, N-nudity, and L-language). "Parents have had enough rude surprises at the multiplex to know generalized ratings are no solution to what's coming into the family room. They want to know the nature of the offending materials: Nudity? Sex? Language? Violence? How much? How Graphic?"
- ▶ Allows *parents*, rather than the *TV industry*, to judge what program content is acceptable for their own children.
- ▶ Clearly separates ratings for each area allowing parents to make choices based on specific content information.
- ▶ Gives enough information to individuals that they can make a more confident decision on what they really want to see and hear.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue. It is a very important issue to the families and children of our Nation.

Thank you,



Member of The Farmington Elementary PTA
Farmington, UT 84025

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SIXTH DISTRICT PTA

March 25, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W. Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

As the parent of two children I am extremely concerned about the TV rating system. What is currently appearing on my TV screen is unacceptable. It is of most importance for me to know the content of the program. The age category is insignificant as each child's development level is different and only the parent can determine what is appropriate for their child. However, to make this decision the parent needs more information. We need to know if there is violence, bad language or sexual situations. Stating G or PG or 14 doesn't tell me anything about what's in that program.

Another suggestion is to flash the rating more often during the program so that if we've tuned in after its start we'll be able to know what rating it is.

Also, I feel that any system you consider should be evaluated by an independent agency to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

Being my children's parent is the full time career I've chosen. Please give me the information I need to act responsibly.

As always,

Deborah
Deborah Schafstall, President
Sixth District PTA
Richwood, KY 41094

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March 10, 1997

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Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the local Van Buren Middle School PTA to voice my opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate TV programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

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That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough that would allow parents to receive more than one rating system;

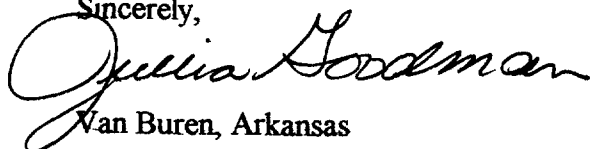
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Thank you for this opportunity to comment on an issue so important to children and families.

Sincerely,


Van Buren, Arkansas

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March 17, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W. Room 222
Washington DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Subject: CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the National PTA and the local Millard, Nebraska PTA to voice my opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Mr. Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating system on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate programming for their children. Major surveys released this fall which demonstrate overwhelming parent preference for a rating system that gives parents information about the content of programs were conducted by the National PTA, *U.S. News and World Report*, and Media Studies Center/Roper. Parents do not want the TV industry to interpret what is best for their children. Parents want to make those choices themselves, based on content information about the program. Any rating system without content descriptions on the screen and publicized in periodicals that carry TV scheduling is useless.

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Sincerely,

Paula Beyak

Paula Beyak
Omaha, Nebraska

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Bruce and Carol Adams
1078 Alta Vista Dr.
Laramie, WY 82070

March 24, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt and FCC Commissioners
c/o Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Chairman Hundt and Commissioners:

RE: CS Docket No. 97-⁵⁵~~44~~, FCC 97-34

We are writing on behalf of the National PTA and the Albany County Central Council PTA in Laramie, Wyoming, to voice our opposition to the v-chip rating system as presented by Jack Valenti, Chair of the TV Rating Implementation Group, on January 17, 1997. The rating symbol on the TV screen does not provide sufficient content information so that parents can make decisions about what is appropriate programming for their children.

As parents, we need to retain control over the information that is available on our televisions. We are ultimately accountable for the decision to watch or not watch a program. In order to make wise choices, we need to have a rating system which includes content descriptions on the screen. These descriptions should also be publicized in periodicals that carry TV schedules.

We do not believe this system has met statutory requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which the FCC, by law, has required. We ask that the FCC not approve the industry rating system. Instead, we request the following:

(1) That FCC accept no rating system that does not include content information about programs such as V (for violence), S (for sexual depiction and nudity) and L (for language);

(2) That the FCC require a V-chip band broad enough to allow parents to receive more than one rating system;

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(4) That the rating board be independent of the industry and the FCC and that it include parents; and

(5) That any rating system approved by the FCC be evaluated by independent research to determine if it meets the needs of parents.

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Sincerely,

Bruce & Carol Adams

Bruce and Carol Adams

President, CCPA

cc: Joan Dykstra, President, National PTA